

ANOTHER ERUPTION AT THE "U"

The past week has seen some strange developments at the University. First came the Lovejoy report substantiating and reaffirming the charges that independence of thought and freedom of speech were being throttled at the institution. Then, before the subsequent shouting of the anti-administrationists had subsided, the valedictorian of the graduating class at the commencement day exercises delivered a stirring oration which was the very essence of unbridled thought and speech. And strange as it may all seem, the faculty and regents, having had advance information of the contents of this speech, by majority vote waived whatever rights or power they may have had to either censor the address, or suppress it altogether.

Nor was this all. Mr. Spencer, the valedictorian, did not mince words in making the sweeping charge that independent thought and free speech were being suppressed at the institution. We wonder if it did not occur to him, as it must have to others, that he himself by word and deed was proving an exactly converse state of affairs. It is inconceivable how any one could possibly indulge in a greater degree of mental and verbal action than did Mr. Spencer on that commencement day. And the same might be said of the valedictory address of the year previous.

We do not wish to take issue with the valedictorian as to the purported facts he enunciated. It is altogether probable that many of his statements contained considerable local truth. It is evident also, that the young man was sincere in what he said. But it passes beyond comprehension how the speaker and his supporters, by virtue of the very character of his statements and the occasion upon which they were made, can possibly claim any consistency of attitude with respect to the issues involved. Whatever the character of the controversy still pending on that day, the occasion was not opportune for a discussion of it there. Moreover, if we fully understand the object of the day, and the order thereof, it was extremely ill advised for the graduate to take advantage of the opportunity afforded to crowd such a delicate subject into the exercises. It mattered not how true his statements, or whether he was airing his own personal views or speaking in behalf of his class or of a certain faction of the faculty. We venture the assertion that nowhere in any other institution of learning in the land would such an act of affront be permitted on the part of a student about to be honored by the presentation of a degree of learning.

This in itself is a sad commentary on the administration of the University. It evidences a woeful lack of discipline on the part of those responsible for the policies of the institution, and for the conduct of those who attend it. If conditions at the school have become so chaotic that commencement exercises can no longer be held without having some departing student, in the name of his class, criticize its policies in terms amounting almost to a curse, then the time has come for summary action. If the regents have so far lost control of the institution as to be unable to curb the spirit of anarchy which prevails, and to suppress such indignities and improprieties as occurred the other day, then they had better resign from their positions. And if some strong man or group of men cannot be found who are competent to control the institution, then the sooner it is closed the better. The people have made too many sacrifices for the University to stand for a continuation of the deplorable situation any longer.

It would seem that we agree with Mr. Mattson in his criticism of Mr. Spencer's address. We do, in part, for the reasons above stated. But it must be remembered that the Secretary of State

is himself a member of the board of regents and, as such, is partially responsible for the condition in the institution which gave rise to the event which he chose to criticize. He would have been in far better taste, we think, had he directed the major portion of his criticism to himself and his fellow associates. It is only fair though, to say in passing, that the secretary deserves credit for his display of frankness and the courage of his convictions, however faulty they appear to be. The same cannot be said of a majority of his associates on the board of control, and of others equally responsible for the administration of affairs at the institution.

GRANT FOR MAYOR

Among the prognosticators who are casting about for material for the new city commission in the coming campaign, why has no one mentioned the Hon. B. F. Grant, chief of police?

We are under the impression that he would make an ideal candidate, and if nominated and elected, see what a saving it would be for the city, for after the experience he has had, there would be no need of a police commissioner and a chief of police also.

There really isn't at present. Mr. Park and Mr. Grant work together like clockwork—cuckoo clockwork, so to speak—both with the same ideas, the same exalted ideals. Both like to tell the gullibles at the ward meetings how clean our city is, (while conditions at the city jail are the limit) how free from criminals we are (with the city burdened with thugs, grifters, riggers, con men and dips) how nice is the little millenium they have arranged, until the perfection is such that they should be patriotic enough to merge the two offices in one, at the salary of one. If Mr. Grant would resign immediately, we feel that we could almost guarantee his election as mayor and police commissioner on the grounds of economy, having in mind the efficiency that has marked his department ever since he was appointed to his present position.

Then too, his idea of the law might make him so useful that another saving might be effected in the city's legal department. He is quoted as

having made the statement in regard to the arrest of an alleged dip, and subsequent dismissal of the same: "No crime was committed by merely thrusting a hand in another's pocket unless property was actually removed from the pocket." That is brilliant enough to pave the way for a "sit in" when matters of legal import are being considered.

By all means nominate the cheese for commissioner-mayor, and save the day for law and order and economy.

THAT BASEBALL LOTTERY

The National baseball lottery which was exposed in the Weekly two weeks ago is having a tough time of it across the country.

It will be remembered that the "Weekly World" subscription blanks containing a free score card and premium slip for the week of May 24, at thirty cents a week were sold at the South Main street store of Hemenway & Moser for a few days preceding the publication of the article, when for some reason the sale suddenly stopped. The organized gang of venders of the subscription blanks containing the lottery chances by which one was supposed to have an opportunity to win \$1,500 on an investment of thirty cents, sent two of its smoothest representatives here where the field looked fairly fertile, but they decided not to operate very long.

A series of Associated Press dispatches, one from Chicago, one from New York and one from Wilkesbarre throw a little further light on the system of "mutuals" scattered across the country. They read as follows:

Chicago.—The trial of William Rapp, manager of a loop saloon, charged with operating a lottery in the form of a baseball pool, was begun here yesterday.

Upon the decision of the jury depend a number of similar suits. Baseball men are interested in the outcome and say that the decision may have a bearing on similar suits in other cities.

Testimony of the detective who made the arrest was that he had purchased a week's subscription to a paper published in Wilkesbarre, Pa., and with the receipt thereof had received

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